



Air Combat Command NEWS SERVICE

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“Let’s Roll” nose art flies into combat

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OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
(ACCNS) -- B-1 Lancer number 86-123 was the first aircraft flown in combat featuring the “Let’s Roll!” nose art.

The nose art commemorates the victims and heroes of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

“Awesome ... I love it ... I’m honored ... I’m glad to have it on our plane,” were some of the words used by Staff Sgt. Wesley T. Clark and Senior Airman Joshua L. Atkinson, the aircraft’s crew chiefs.

“The new nose art exemplifies our feelings of unity and commitment to the anti-terrorism mission,” said Brig. Gen. Wendell L. Griffin, commander of the 405th Air Expeditionary Wing at this deployed location. “From the people on board the hijacked planes who resisted and the firefighters at the scene to airmen standing guard and the pilots dropping bombs, we’re all in this war together.”

The “Let’s Roll!” bomber was in the air over Washington state bound for a Western Pacific bombing range when the terrorist attacks occurred. The jet was ordered back to its home station.

Flight 93 passenger Todd Beamer made the phrase famous when he called it out before passengers charged the terrorists. They were credited with stopping the terrorist plot to attack a fourth target. Staff Sgt. Duane White, a graphic artist from Air Combat Command’s multimedia center at Langley AFB, Va., created the nose art. It will appear on selected Air Force planes



Aircraft crew chief Staff Sgt. Wesley T. Clark stands ready as the aircrew runs through pre-flight checklists at a forward operating location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Air Force photo)

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through Sept. 11, 2002.

"I heard about it when we arrived at the jet today. It's a great honor," said aircraft commander Capt. Matthew D. Fuller. "Looks like we're going to get to drop some bombs and help some people out. That's a great way to inaugurate it."

"This is the biggest day we've had," said Lt. Col. Eldon A. Woodie, commander of the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron. "It's good for the whole base morale."

A few minutes before takeoff, more than 100 people fell into formation at the edge of the flightline for an impromptu sendoff. As the nose wheel lifted off the ground, commands came from the squadron superintendent, Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Charfauros: "Squadron, attention! Present arms!"

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